

## HOW IS VIOLENCE ON ELDERLY WOMEN IN PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVE? : A LITERATURE REVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

*The use of violence in the elderly is a serious problem in Indonesia. Ironically, this practice is actually done by the family members of the elderly themselves. Aim: to analyze violence in elderly women by a family using the theory of violent behavior in the family psychosocial perspective. Design: Review-literature; Method: A comprehensive search strategy that searches research articles in the database of research journals, internet searches, and article reviews. The search database used were MEDLINE, CINAHL, Pubmed, Cochrane library, ProquestPsycINFO, and Science Direct. Result: Elderly women are more likely to be victims of physical and psychological violence compared with elderly men. Female elderly violence occurs because of the strong patriarchal values that cause the power and dominance of men in controlling and controlling decisions according to their perceptions and most tend to be forced into acceptance by other members of the lower-powered family. The elderly woman is the object of the sufferer to arbitrary, injustice and improper treatment of the power of power to other family members. It is necessary to do social deconstruction so that it will affect the social and cultural values adopted by the family.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Elderly Women; Elderly Abuse; Elderly Family; Psychosocial & Violence*

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### INTRODUCTION

The growth of elderly aged groups is moving progressively almost worldwide. Elderly growth has been projected every year to increase. Data from the United Nations in 2015 shows there are 901 million people under age 60 and above. This number increased compared to 2000 ( 607 million elderly population were in 2000 ). That is, an increase of 48 percent. It is estimated that the growth of the elderly population increased by 56 percent to 1.4 billion inhabitants by 2030. The projection of 20 years later is predicted to reach 2.1 billion. By 2015, the rate of growth will increase dramatically to 125 million people and will continue to increase with a projected figure of 61 percent or around 202 million by 2030. By 2050, it is estimated that it will reach 434 million people (United Nations, 2015).

Indonesia also experienced an increasing trend of the elderly population. Characteristics of the elderly population are dominated by the elderly living with the family in the domestic order. Based on data from Susenas 2014, the number of elderly households is 16.08 million or 24.50 percent of all households in Indonesia. The elderly household is at least one member of the household aged 60 and above. The number of elderly in Indonesia reaches 20.24 million people, equivalent to 8.03 percent of the total population of Indonesia in 2014. The number of female elderly is bigger than male, that is 10.77 million female elderly compared to 9.47 million elderly men. The elderly who live in rural areas as many as 10.87 million people, more than the elderly living in urban as much as 9.37 million people. Most of the elderly people live together with their extended family. 42.32 percent of the

elderly live with three generations in one household, living with their children and grandchildren, or with their children and parents/in-laws. A total of 26.80 percent of elderly living with the nuclear family. The thing that deserves attention is those who live alone in a single house or a single elderly household. A total of 9.66 percent of elderly live alone and must meet their food, health, and social needs independently (BPS, 2015)

Growing age causes possibility of a person experiencing physical, mental, spiritual, economic and social problems. These problems can lead to violence in the elderly. The forms of violence often experienced by postmenopausal elderly include physical violence in the form of blow and pull of hair, psychological violence with words and threats, deprived interests such as visiting children, confined and isolated from association, lack of attention to the presence of self and the daily needs of the elderly, expectations of health needs and daily needs that are not met even financial violence where the elderly are not given money for living expenses (Rashidi, Azimi, & Rashidi, 2013). These forms of violence are often perpetrated by the elderly people themselves primarily by intimate partners and families.

### **Aim**

This study is to analyze violence in elderly women by a family using the theory of violent behavior in the family psychosocial perspective.

### **Design**

A literature review

### **Eligibility criteria**

To be included, studies needed to be written in English and to have been published between 2000 and 2017. Only studies for which the full text was available were included. Studies had to investigate violence in elderly women by a family using the theory of violent behavior in the family psychosocial perspective.

### **Sources**

A comprehensive search strategy was developed, whereby research articles were accessed via databases, research journals, internet searches, and article reviews. The databases used were MEDLINE, CINAHL, PubMed, the Cochrane Library, ProQuest, PsycINFO, and Science Direct.

### **Search**

Keywords used in the search were elderly, women, violence, abuse, psychosocial, family, intimate partner. These were combined with the Boolean operators AND and OR. For each database, the same search criteria were used.

## **RESULTS**

Elderly women more often experience violence than elderly men. The intimate partner of the elderly woman is one of the perpetrators of violence in the context of the personal interaction. Research shows that of 44 studies analyzed related to violence where 32 studies discussed gender issues. There were 19,756 of 34,886 elderly women who experienced elderly violence (Yon, Mikton, Gassoumis, & Wilber, 2017). Forms of violence perpetrated by elderly couples such as physical violence, sexual violence, and harmful physical threats (Zink, Fisher, Regan, & Pabst, 2005). Other forms of violence such as psychological aggression and sexual coercion to spouses are the most common forms of violence experienced by the elderly (Liles, Usita, Irvin, Hofstetter, & Beeston, 2012).

Violence in elderly women is also carried out by families, especially by children. Violence in the elderly by children is done in various forms such as physical, psychological and financial violence. Children from elderly caring for the elderly in the family system feel overwhelmed. Health status, ability to care and satisfaction in caring has a close relationship with the burden of the family caring for the elderly. Unhealthy family conditions tend to have a high burden in treating the elderly three times compared with healthy families (Maryam, Riasmini, & Suryati, 2012). Stress felt by children who served as elderly caregiver proved to have a significant relationship with the occurrence of violence in elderly with dementia (Yuliawati, 2013). One out of three elderly women in South Korea aged 60 and above experienced family violence throughout their lives. This indicates that half of South Korean women's elderly population is at risk of depression caused by family violence (Nam & Lincoln, 2017). Children as caregivers for the elderly often do these things because they feel more power over the elderly themselves. They exercise full control or control of the elderly, especially in the elderly women. They are verbally and non verbally threatened with harsh words, insulting the elderly, not listening and carrying out the elderly wishes. Other violent acts received by elderly women are lack of freedom, social isolation and not given adequate money (Souito et al., 2016).

### **The Theory of Violent Behavior of the Family Psychosocial Perspective**

The theory of violent family behavior is a theory used to explain how violence arises based on the dynamics of family violence related to the existence of inappropriate power within the family system. This theory sees the problem of family violence in three main theoretical perspectives: intraindividual, socio-cultural and psychosocial. The psychosocial perspective approach is one of the most relevant approaches to the problem of violence experienced by the elderly women. This perspective explains that the existence of family violence occurs is a reciprocal function between individuals and communities that deal with issues of power, control, social class or poverty, family economy and ownership transfer. According to Steinmentz (1995) states that the most influential component in violent behavior on the psychosocial perspective of power. This component is most influential because it characterizes and legitimizes the intra-family interaction between spouses and parents and children, an indication of the value of values in society to each family member such as the value of men is more valuable than women, as well as the value in society where there is special power in families like rich families have more value than poor families. Power in the family will become greater if there is control either direct control over others, control over the source and control of the family social class (Friedman, Bowden, & Jones, 2010).

The problem of elderly women in the issue of violence by the family is very complex and requires a theoretical approach to find the root of the problem. The theory of family violence behavior psychosocial perspective can be used in understanding and further analyzing the problem of violence in elderly women by families. The main component of the theory can be related to the problem of female elderly violence in Indonesia.

Violence in elderly women has become a topic and object of research by many researchers from various countries. The summary of research results related to the violence of elderly women as follows:

Research results in the United States (Liles et al., 2012) suggest that the most frequent forms of violence experienced by elderly women of Korean descent in California are psychological violence (27.4%) and sexual violence (17.3%). Elderly women aged 55 and over 5 times more stress and violence by an intimate partner than other elderly age groups. Different things with elderly women aged 40-54 years face the problem that elderly men are more dominant. Elderly men tend to exercise control in making decisions in the family. It is influenced by the patriarchal value of the

elderly men, so that they dominate power in the family structure.

Research on the prevalence of spousal violence to elderly women in primary service practice in Ohio, USA found that 1000 elderly women suffered violence committed by intimate partners. The prevalence of physical violence was reported at 1.52%, sexual violence by 2.14%, and the threat of physical violence 2.63%. The victims of violence told the other person about 500 people. As a result of violence committed by intimate partners, the elderly women experience depression and chronic pain (Zink et al., 2005). Elderly women feel hurt by their unappreciated treatment and well cared for by their children, feeling loneliness and deep sadness because their expectations in the old days are not as hopeful (Dubus, 2010). Elderly women have complex psychological problems because of getting undue treatment. Descriptive research on violence in the elderly in the family in Semarang in 2014 was found from 110 elderly people aged over 60 years of violence experienced by acts of physical abandonment violence, economic neglect, psychic neglect. This shows the conditions and problems facing elderly living together with families in Indonesia is no different from the elderly in other countries (Rismanda, 2014).

Elderly women in the face of violence often face obstacles that prevent them from seeking help. A study of 134 elderly women in Florida, USA found external obstacles in seeking help (1) family members' responses that did not support and blame them; (2) Religious leaders' responses influence decisions about individual coping in the face of violence; (3) the response of the judicial system is considered by the elderly women not yet as expected so as to discourage to report; (4) environmental and community responses to elderly violence are considered unable to assist them. Campaigns and movements of elderly violence do not represent the violence experienced by elderly women so they assume the effort is ineffective (Beaulaurier, Seff, Newman, & Dunlop, 2007).

## DISCUSSIONS

The research study found that women's elderly violence most often received from both intimate partner and family that is physical, psychological, and sexual violence. Violence will greatly affect the health status, mental status, social function, spirituality and cultural elderly women. The quality of life of the elderly will not be optimal because of the complexity of the problems experienced. This is a special concern for all of us where elderly women are very at risk of disturbances, especially on psychological disorders.

A psychological disturbance occurs because elderly women feel unappreciated and well cared for by their children, feeling lonely and ultimately causing profound sadness. As a result, elderly women are at risk of stress and worsen into depression. The perception most people consider depression in the elderly is normal. The elderly also have the same rights to getting good quality of life in the old days. If depression is not handled properly, it will lead to prolonged depression causing a high incidence of suicide. It is estimated that 15% of depression experienced by the elderly leads to suicide where the elderly women more committed suicide than the elderly men (Wallace, Meredith, 2008).

One of the research findings that we have not realized is economic neglect. Many assumptions of the family especially children seem to perceive that elderly do not need financially. Children feel more right than the elderly women in managing finances. In this case, the child increases the formal and non formal pressures on the elderly women in order to impose their views. The existence of power in controlling decisions causes children have a high dominance over the elderly women. The belief of the child as a family member has the right to make decisions so that the authority of the child appears to the elderly. The influence of culture and normative where the elderly women do not have "power" so that power

and child authority more dominant.

Other family members are violent, ie intimate partners. Intimate couples of elderly women are not much different from what is done by the child. Elderly men have a high risk of violence. Seeing this phenomenon, the root cause of the high violent behavior of elderly men to elderly women need to be analyzed. According to the approach of the theory of family violence behavior, the psychosocial perspective, the elderly men's power over the elderly women in violence is influenced by gender differences. Elderly women have lower powers than the elderly men. As a result, gender inequality exists in family interaction. as for the social values embraced by most men is strongly influenced by cultures that support their superiority and power. The strong patriarchal value of the elderly men so that they will continue to dominate power in the family structure. Elderly women who have lower powers tend to become victims of arbitrariness from other family members who have more power. The implications of women's attitudes, elderly women will be more "defeat" and weaker and dependence on others. In addition, the loss of a good source of economy and role will greatly affect the occurrence of power decline. The power of the family members will be different in each social class. Social class relates to socioeconomic status and social status. Recognized or not "Each class has its own values, lifestyle and behavior clusters that influence family interaction and health practice" (Wright and Leahey, 2000 in Friedmann, 2010)). Men who act as husbands in lower-class families have a higher male power dominance, because of their status as men who earn a living to meet family needs by surrendering their authority to women. Unlike the working class families where male power and dominance will decrease as education levels get higher. Middle-class families have the characteristics of husbands more engaged in joint activities in the household and serve as a friend for his wife (Friedmann, Marylin, 2010). This class distinction shows that patriarchal attributes are more closely attached to those with low education where these lower education individuals are in lower-class families.

## CONCLUSIONS

Female elderly violence occurs, because of the strong patriarchal values that cause the power and dominance of men in controlling and controlling decisions according to their perceptions and most tend to be forced into acceptance by other members of the lower-powered family. The elderly woman is the object of the sufferer to arbitrary, injustice and improper treatment of the power of power to other family members. The strong public gender differences, especially in the context of Indonesian society, have caused many phenomena about violence against women. However, the absence of data on the prevalence of elderly violence is of particular concern. This indicates that the Indonesian government has not paid attention and prioritize this issue. The need for data collection of violence, vulnerability screening in the elderly need to be done by the government. The social constructions of elderly women are helpless and dependent on people causing elderly women cannot live independently and actively in social life. It is necessary to do social deconstruction so that it will affect the social and cultural values adopted by the family. Awareness of women's rights and gender equality, especially in elderly women need to be encouraged to the society. Efforts to create a friendly and caring environment of the elderly need to be done also in encouraging the education of the importance of respecting and treating the elderly as well. Family education about elderly violence should also be done because the family is the main factor in the onset of violence in the elderly. In addition, law enforcement needs to be done by the government so that it can suppress the number of violence in the elderly.

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